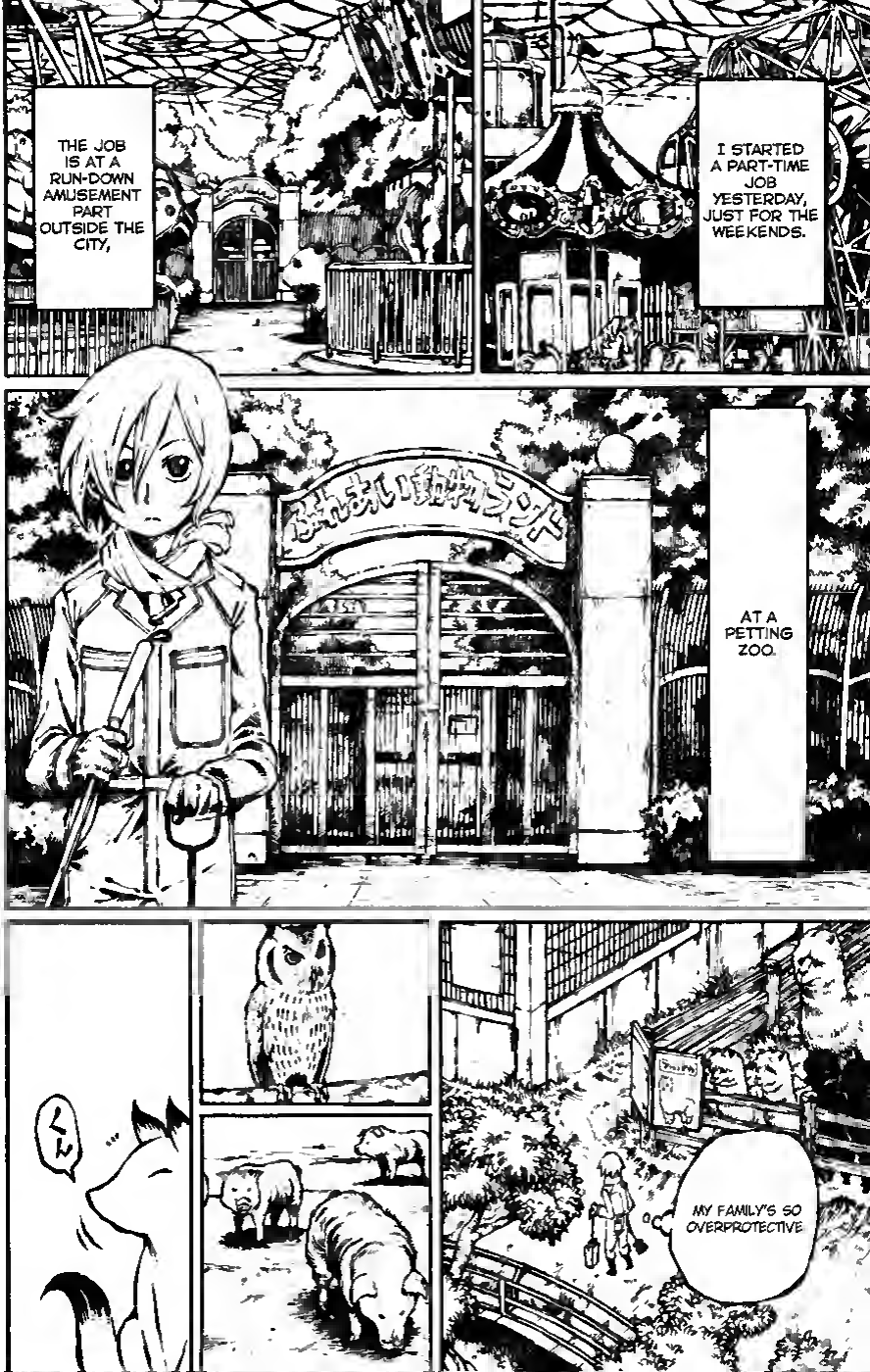
SHE'S BEEN ATTACKED BY ELEVATORS
TWICE IN A ROW NOW. (WELL, THE FIRST TIME HE DIDN'T QUITE GET TO ACTUALLY ATTACK HER, BUT STILL.)
IF THEY COME AFTER HER AND I'M NOT AROUND, THAT'S IT. IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO JUST WATCH OVER HER AS SHE GOES HOME
I NEED TO BE ABLE TO COME TO HER SIDE ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.
WHAT I NEED...
IS A LISTEN-ING DEVICE.
YAAAWN BETTER GO TO SLEEP NOW.
SWEET DREAMS, MIZUNO...

しんわり話題騒然!!
人喰い宇宙人との戦い。依然、緊張状態。
日々、警護。
大変なお手間とります。
阿部洋一
Vanilla Spider
バニラスパイダー

Bite 3: Picky Eater

YOU'VE GOT YOUR PART-TIME JOB AGAIN TODAY, RIGHT? I PACKED YOU A LUNCH.
NO THANKS. I ALREADY TOLD YOU, IT'S EMBARRASSING
TSUTSUJI!!!
BUT ...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, GRANDMA, I'LL JUST PRETEND I'M NOT HUNGRY.
うう...
I'LL DROP YOU OFF AT YOUR WORK.
JUST TAKE THE LUNCH, TSUTSUJI.
!
C'MON TSUTSUJI!, HOP ON!


I STARTED A PART-TIME JOB YESTERDAY, JUST FOR THE WEEKENDS.
THE JOB IS AT A RUN-DOWN AMUSEMENT PART OUTSIDE THE CITY,
AT A PETTING ZOO.
MY FAMILY'S SO OVERPROTECTIVE
SNIFF

THEY'RE REALLY EXPENSIVE
LISTENING DEVICES
MIC + RECEIVER SET
¥56,800-
THERE'S A REASON I STARTED THIS JOB...
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M SAVING UP TO BUG MIZUNO.
THERE'S JUST NO WAY I CAN PAY FOR THIS WITH MY ALLOWANCE, THOUGH...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I WANT TO SET UP MICS IN AT LEAST THREE SPOTS
ONE ON MIZUNO HERSELF, ONE IN HER ROOM, AND THEN ONE IN HER BATHROOM, JUST IN CASE
I MUST SAY, THOUGH ...
SWEEP SWEEP
SWEEP SWEEP

THIS IS THE PERFECT JOB FOR ME.
SWEEP SWEEP
I CAN GET IN, COLLECT THE POOP AND GET OUT, ALL WITHOUT BEING NOTICED BY THE VISITORS, OR EVEN THE ANIMALS
PHEW
APPARENTLY A LOT OF PEOPLE STRUGGLE WITH THE JOB -- GETTING IN THE WAY OF THE VISITORS, DEALING WITH THE ANIMALS GETTING RILED UP.
I'M NOT QUITE PROUD OF IT, THOUGH... IT'S STILL PRETTY DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT.
YEAH,
YOU NEED TO MAKE USE OF YOUR LACK OF PRE-SENCE. REALLY OWN IT!
I MEAN, YOU GOT TWO OF THEM WITHOUT BEING DETECTED
I WON'T TRY TELLING YOU TO BE PROUD AGAIN... BUT JUST ACCEPT WHAT YOU ARE!
O- OKAY...
SHFFF
BY THE WAY, TSUTSUJI.
WHY IS IT THAT YOU HAVEN'T ASKED ANYTHING AT ALL
ABOUT WHY I KEEP TAKING THE SKINS FROM THE ELEVATORS' HOSTS?

WHY DO YOU KEEP TAKING THE SKINS, MR. TSUDA?
NOT TELLIN'.
WHY ...
.....
"WHY DO YOU KEEP TAKING THE SKINS, MR. TSUDA?"
GO AHEAD AND ASK.
IT'S ALRIGHT TO JUST ASK?!
.....
HIM. UGH.
AND NOW THE PONIES, SO NEXT IS...
LET'S SEE... SO THAT'S THE ALPACAS, THE SHEEP, THE DOG, THE RACOONS...

FOR SOME REASON, THIS FOX ALWAYS NOTICES ME RIGHT AWAY
SNIFF SNIFF
YIP!
YIP!
YIP!
YIP!
YIP!
YEP, HE DID IT AGAIN TODAY...
HELLO!
YIP YIP.
!
SNIFF
YIP
YIP
AWWWW, YOU'RE ALWAYS SUCH A CUTIE!
YIP!
YIP!

MIZUNO IS A BIG-TIME ANIMAL LOVER, SO ONE OF THE REASONS I STARTED WORKING HERE IS BECAUSE I HEARD SHE COMES HERE A LOT.
THUD
SWOOOOOOP
AW GOOD BOY
MI-ZUNO !!
SHE REALLY CAME!!
WAH!
HAHAHA! THAT TICKLES, YIPPY!
AH!!
I STILL HAVEN'T CLEANED HIS AREA YET!!
AH AH A!
HE HE !
YIP
YIP!
THAT LUCKY LITTLE JERK...

I'LL BET ANIMALS TAKE TO MIZUNO BECAUSE OF THE WAY SHE TOTALLY EXPRESSES HER LOVE FOR THEM...
MIZUNO
YOU REALLY ARE LOVELY
I ALWAYS HAVE SO MUCH FUN WITH YOU BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS PLAY BACK WITH ME
GUESS I WENT A BIT OVERBOARD THERE
NYEHEHE
IS IT JUST ME, OR ARE THERE LESS ANIMALS NOW?
HEY
...AND MAYBE THAT'S ALSO WHY ELEVATORS KEEP COMING AFTER HER?
I FEEL LIKE THERE WERE MORE ALPACAS AND RACCOONS BEFORE
I GUESS THEY DIED, OR MAYBE THEY GAVE THEM AWAY
MIZUNO
?

しゃん
YIP
しゃん
ALRIGHT, YIPPY, SEE YOU AROUND!
THERE SHE GOES, AND I DIDN'T TALK TO HER...
YIP!
YIP!
AH...
THAT'S IT!!
YIP!
YIP!
YIP!
YIP!
THIS THING'S THE KEY!!
I COULD TAME MIZUNO'S FAVORITE,
AND MAYBE BE ABLE TO GET CLOSER TO HER!
WOW! YIPPY'S NOT USUALLY SO FRIENDLY WITH PEOPLE!
HE REALLY LIKES YOU!
HA-HA-HA.
YEAH, ONCE THIS GUY GETS A HOLD OF ME, I HAVE A REAL HARD TIME GETTING THE LITTLE BUGGER OFF!

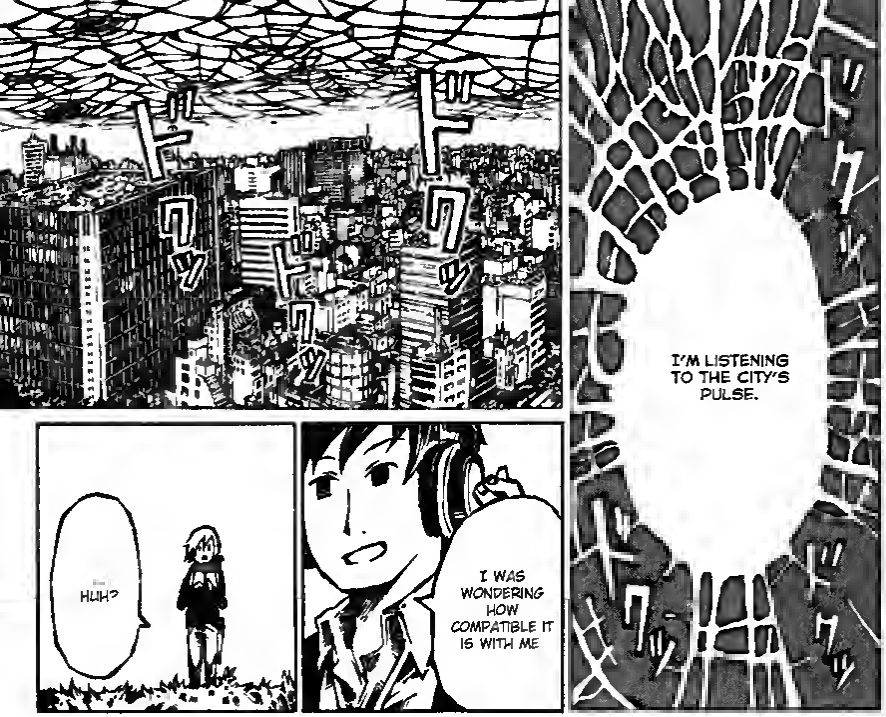
I'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU, YIPPY.
HEH HEH HEH.
HAHAHA WELL SHUCKS.
IF YIPPY LIKES YOU
THEN I LIKE YOU TOO!!
YIP, YIP!
WHA? DON'T YOU LIKE THESE?
IT'S REALLY YUMMY
I WONDER WHAT YOU DO LIKE ...
YIP !!
YIP !!
YIP !!
YIP !!
YIP !!
SNIFF

YIP!!
YIP!!
YIP!!
WHY'RE YOU YIPPING AT THE ZOO OWNER LIKE THAT?!
YIP!!
YIP!!
YIP!!
YIP!!
WH-WHAT'S WRONG ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
WHAT IS IT?!
UM... I'VE JUST GOT THE FOX AND THE PIG AREAS, THEN I'M DONE.
YOU JUST ABOUT FINISHED, NEW KID?
SN-IFF
SN-IFF
フギー
フギー
GR RR RR RR. ..

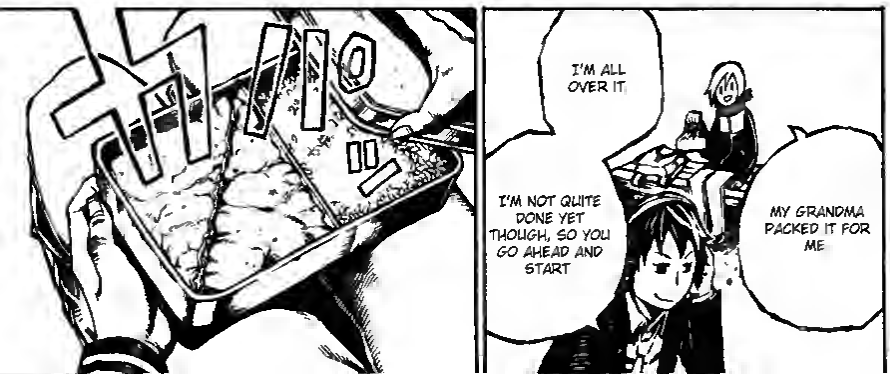
YOU CAN LEAVE ... KID.
I SAID
B-BUT ...
HUH?
FORGET ABOUT THE REST, YOU CAN GO NOW.
SHAKE
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, LITTLE GUY?!
YOU'RE SHAKING SO MUCH!!
WHOA
SHAKE
SHAKE
O- OKAY, I'LL LEAVE, THEN!
ALRIGHT, FINE!! WHATEVER!!
AL-
CHOMP
OW!!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO Y-

SHAKE SHAKE
HE SEEMED SO SCARED ... IT'S LIKE HE SAW A MONSTER OR SOMETHING ...
... BUT,
I DON'T GET WHY HE YIPS LIKE THAT AT SOME PEOPLE! ME, FOR EXAMPLE!
YIP !!
YIP !!
YIP !!
YIP !!
スタ
スタ
スタ
THEY'VE ONLY BEEN EATING HUMANS.
. . .NAH, CAN'T BE.
COULD IT BE AN ELEVATOR ?!
"IS IT JUST ME, OR ARE THERE LESS ANIMALS NOW?"
.....
THE YIPPING STOPPED WHAT HAPPENED?
WAIT.
FORGET IT!
ダッ
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO Y-
OW !!
ガッ
CHOMP

MR. TSUDA!!!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

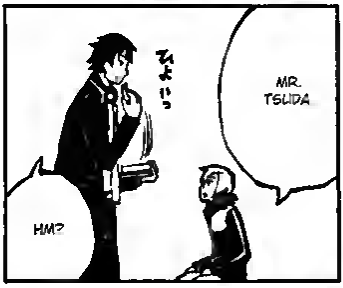

I'M LISTENING TO THE CITY'S PULSE.
I WAS WONDERING HOW COMPATIBLE IT IS WITH ME
HUH?

WANT TO SHARE MY LUNCH WITH ME, MR. TSUDA?


I'M ALL OVER IT
I'M NOT QUITE DONE YET THOUGH, SO YOU GO AHEAD AND START
MY GRANDMA PACKED IT FOR ME

NO-MF
YO-INK
MY FAMILY RUNS A TOFU SHOP, SO THIS IS ALL MY GRANDMA EVER PACKS ME FOR LUNCH...
NEVER TRIED THE STUFF BEFORE...
WOW, FRIED TOFU FOR LUNCH.
I GUESS HE YIPS AT ME BECAUSE HE HATES ME
WOW THAT'S GOOD!
TH- THANK! MY GRANDPARENTS'LL BE HAPPY.
SNIFF SNIFF
COULD HE HAVE BEEN YIPPING AT ME BECAUSE OF THE SMELL OF TOFU?
YOU CAN SEE WHY THEY SAY THAT EVEN FOXES LIKE THIS STUFF...

ARE THERE ELEVATORS THAT EAT THINGS OTHER THAN HUMANS?

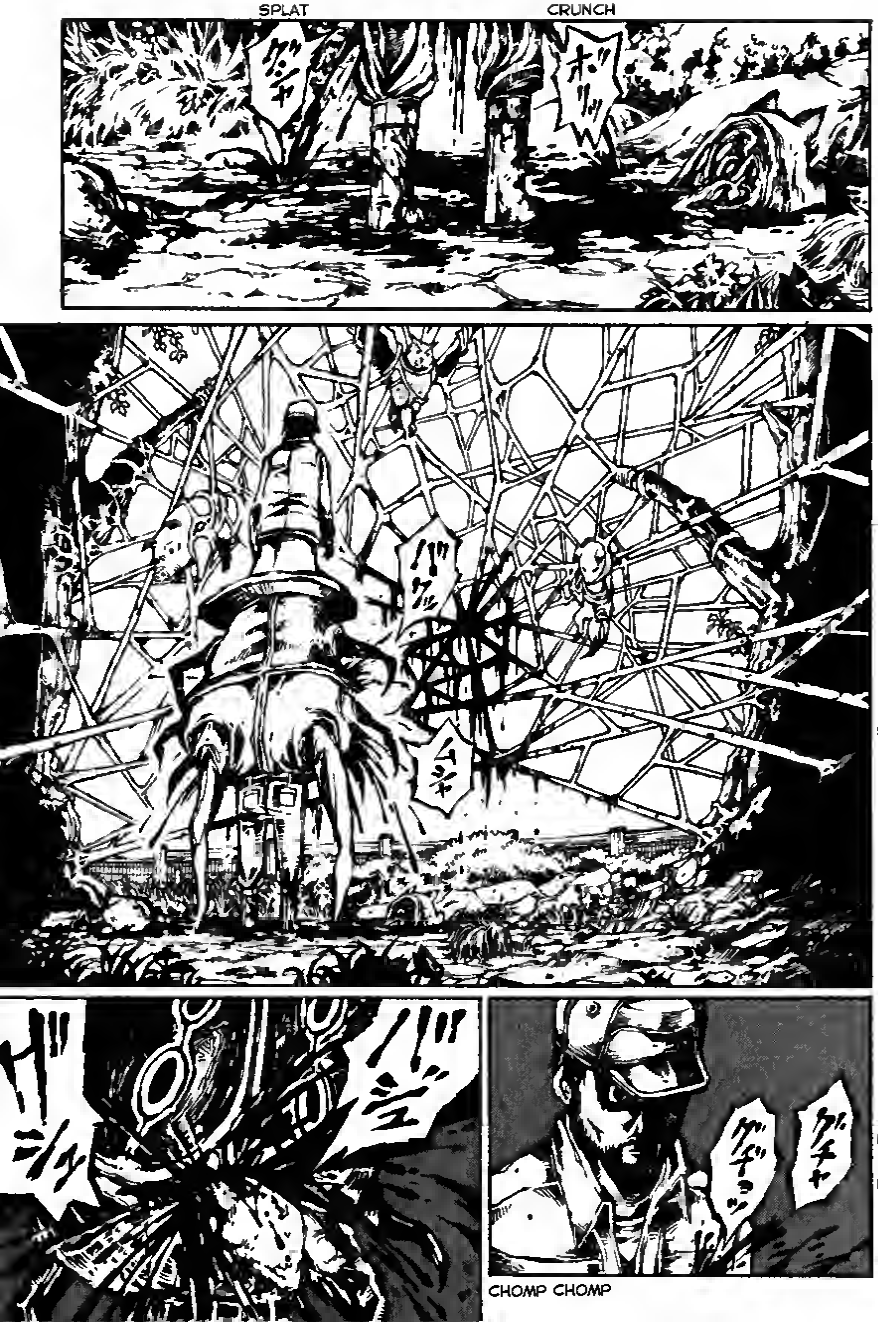


YOU BET.

DO THEY EAT ANIMALS? Y'KNOW, LIKE CATS AND DOGS... AND FOXES...

THEY DO.

THE FOX'S REACTION... AND THAT OWNER!!
OF COURSE! IT WAS SO OBVIOUS!
THE ZOO OWNER IS AN ELEVATOR !!


SPLAT
CRUNCH
NO-MF
SLU-RP
SQ-UIRT
SQ-UIRT
CHOMP CHOMP

?

AT THIS RATE, HE'LL BE EATEN TOO!! AND IF HE GETS EATEN ...

I WAS RIGHT !!

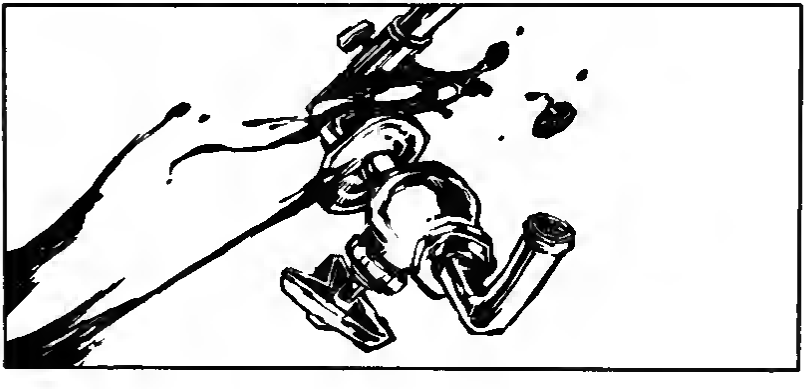
I DON'T WANT MIZUNO TO MAKE THAT FACE EVER AGAIN!!

TAP TAP TAP

GLU-
RP
URP
NOW
!!
!
BUR-
RRR
-RP
SNIFF
YIP!
!?
YIP!
YIP!

THE ELEVATOR DIDN'T NOTICE ME... SO THE PROBLEM ISN'T HIDING MY PRESENCE...
I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOU HERE!
YIP!
YIP!
YIP!
WHAT'RE YOU HOWLING FOR?!
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
HE'S REACTING TO THE SMELL!
SHAKE SHAKE
AND NOW...
SNIP SNIP
YOU'RE NEXT...
IN THAT CASE...
ALRIGHT!
RUSTLE RUSTLE

YEEK
!!



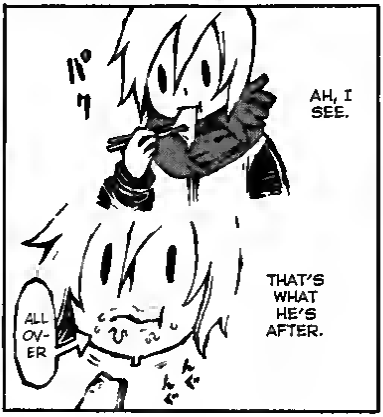
.....
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
THANK GOD
IT WORKED
YIP!

LUCKILY, I BOUGHT THIS BECAUSE OF HOW THIS JOB LEAVES ME SMELLING LIKE THE ANIMALS.
シュー
シュー
シュー
WH-
WAH!
WHAT THE?!
I
I DIDN'T DO IT FOR YOUR SAKE, Y'KNOW.
SLRP
SLRP
IS HE TRYING TO THANK ME FOR SAVING HIM?
HUH?

SO ...
プロプロプロプロ

ゴクン
ちゃぷ
ちゃぷ
……

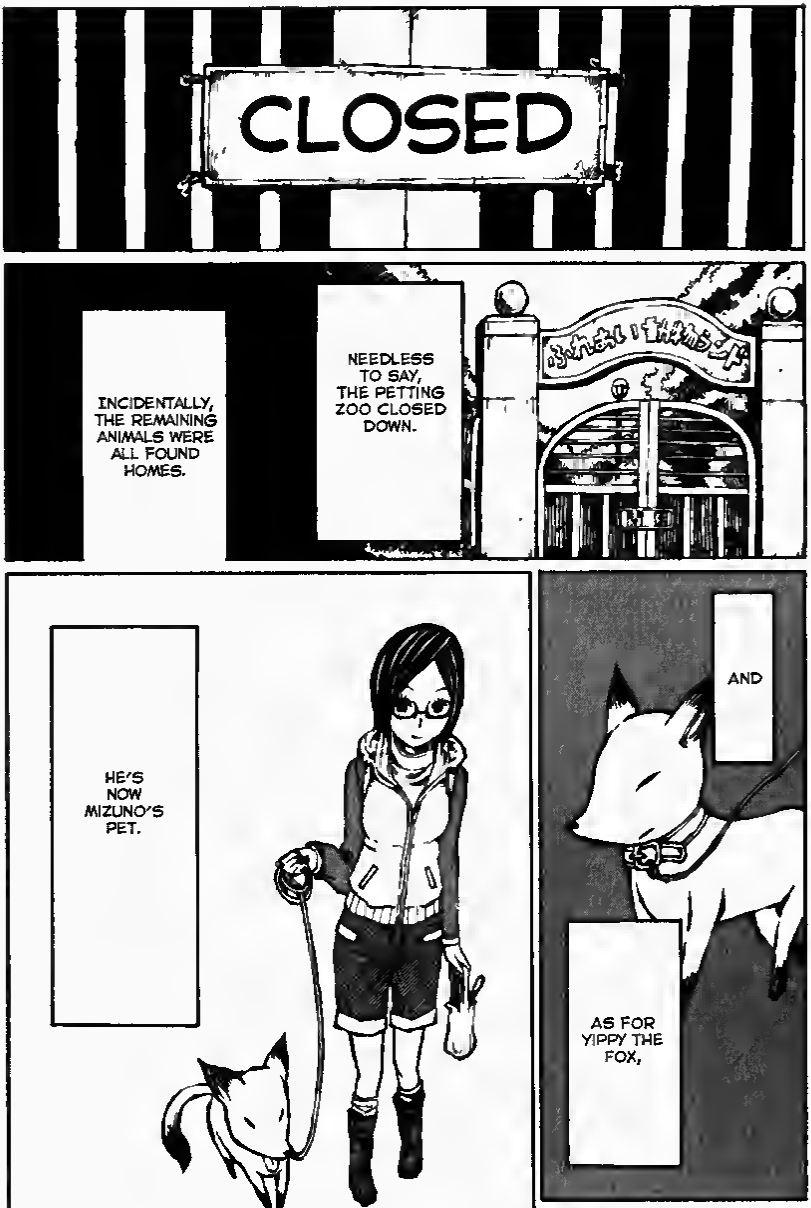
MIZUNO WOULD BE SAD IF YOU DIED.
PLUS, I CAN USE YOU AS A MEANS OF GETTING CLOSER TO MIZUNO.
ちゃぷ
ちゃぷ
ゴクン


AH, I SEE.
THAT'S WHAT HE'S AFTER.
ALL OV-ER
パク
んぐ

ヴィィィ
プロ
アン

NOM NOM
HE CAN BE KINDA CUTE
SURE, HE WAS JUST AFTER THE TOFU,
SO YOU REALLY DO LIKE FRIED TOFU
HAHA.
YIPPY IS ONE OF FEW WHO NOTICED ME.
BUT JUST LIKE MY FAMILY AND MR. TSUDA,
CHEW CHEW
BECAUSE OF THE SMELL, HUH?
HE COULD COME IN HANDY
I'M HAPPY JUST FOR THAT ...
YOU DON'T SAY.

きゅっ
くんくん
!
よしよし
なでなで
ぴゅっ
ガブッ
CHOMP
AND I'D JUST FIXED THIS SUIT ...
ぴゅっ
ぴゅっ
ぴゅっ


CLOSED
INCIDENTALLY, THE REMAINING ANIMALS WERE ALL FOUND HOMES.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE PETTING ZOO CLOSED DOWN.
HE'S NOW MIZUNO'S PET.
AND
AS FOR YIPPY THE FOX,

WAG WAG
GULP GULP
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH
PILE OF FRIED TOFU
SO I'VE ARRANGED IT SO THAT HE'LL LET ME KNOW IF AN ELEVATOR COMES NEAR MIZUNO.
YIPPY CAN SMELL WHETHER A PERSON HAS AN ELEVATOR INSIDE OF THEM OR NOT,
SNIFF
I'M LEAVING IT TO YOU TO PROTECT HER WHEN I'M NOT AROUND, YIPPY!
BUT I HAVE YOU INSTEAD!
GULP GULP
I'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP ON THE LISTENING DEVICE
WITH THE PETTING ZOO CLOSED, THERE GOES MY SOURCE OF INCOME
ABOUT YOUR WHOLE STALKER THING ...
WHA?
BUT IF YOU'D GONE THROUGH WITH THE LISTENING DEVICE, YOU'D DEFINITELY HAVE CROSSED THE LINE INTO FULL ON STALKERDOM.
UP UNTIL NOW YOU'VE JUT BARELY BEEN IN THE CLEAR.

BONUS MANGA (NOTE: THE FOLLOWING IS A POINTLESS LITTLE COMIC THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE MAIN STORY.)

ELEVATOR GIRL

STAGE 2

.....
MORIMOTO?
MAMI ...?
OH, UM, YEAH.
ERR, I SEE THAT YOU'RE EATING A, UMM, HUMAN
WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE MORIMOTO, OF ALL PEOPLE?
THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG!!
HUH.

→ つづく

TRANSLATOR MENDOZA
BLACK ROCK SCANS
DO YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE?
HUH?!
UH
THAT'S RIGHT.